

The following claims are presented for examination:

**1. - 38.** (Canceled)

**39.** (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

pseudo skin; and

a palpation module for enabling a user to palpate a pseudo vein, wherein:

- (a) the palpation module comprises the pseudo vein;
- (b) the palpation module is disposed beneath the pseudo skin;
- (c) the palpation module generates a magnetic force that opposes downward motion of the pseudo vein; and
- (d) when the user applies a sufficient amount of force to the pseudo vein, the pseudo vein cannot be felt.

**40.** (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 39 wherein the pseudo vein yields to applied occlusion pressure, such that it moves downward, wherein downward movement is used as an indicator that an occlusion technique has been performed.

**41.** (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 39 further comprising a skin-stretch module, wherein the skin-stretch module is disposed beneath the pseudo skin, and wherein the skin-stretch module measures an amount by which the user stretches the pseudo skin.

**42. - 46.** (Canceled)

**47.** (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising a palpation module, wherein said palpation module comprises:

a pseudo vein;

a first plate, wherein the pseudo vein is disposed on the first plate, and wherein the first plate is movable toward a second plate;

the second plate, wherein the second plate is disposed above said first plate in a fixed position, and wherein said second plate has an opening that is dimensioned and located to receive the pseudo vein; and

an arrangement for generating a magnetic force, wherein:

- (a) the arrangement is operatively coupled to the second plate; and
- (b) the magnetic force opposes a force that is applied to the pseudo vein by a user.

**48.** (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 47 wherein the palpation module is operable to perform at least one of following operations: measure a change in position of the pseudo vein and vary a simulated stiffness of the pseudo vein.

**49.** (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 47 wherein said pseudo vein comprises a rigid member.

**50.** (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 47 wherein a magnitude of the magnetic force is adjustable.

**51.** (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 47 further comprising a sensor, wherein the sensor generates a signal that is indicative of a distance between the first plate and the second plate.

**52. - 56** (Canceled)

**57.** (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
pseudo skin; and  
a palpation module for enabling a user to palpate a pseudo vein, wherein said palpation module:

- (a) is disposed beneath said pseudo skin; and
- (b) comprises a rigid pseudo vein that moves downward in response to applied pressure by the user[[: and]].

(c) ~~is operable to vary a simulated stiffness of the rigid pseudo vein~~ wherein when the user applies a sufficient amount of force to the pseudo vein, the pseudo vein cannot be felt.

**58.** (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 57 wherein ~~when the~~ palpation module is operable to vary a simulated stiffness of the rigid pseudo vein ~~user applies a sufficient amount of force to the pseudo vein, the pseudo vein cannot be felt.~~

**59.** (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 57 wherein the palpation module controllably obscures said pseudo vein under said pseudo skin such that said pseudo vein can be felt, or not felt, as desired.

**60.** (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 57 wherein the palpation module generates a magnetic force that opposes downward motion of the pseudo vein, ~~and further wherein a magnitude of the force is substantially constant during application thereof.~~

**61.** (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
pseudo skin; and  
a palpation module for enabling a user to palpate a pseudo vein, wherein said palpation module:

- (a) is disposed beneath the pseudo skin; **and**
- (b) comprises a pseudo vein that moves downward in response to applied pressure[[]];

**wherein when the user applies a sufficient amount of force to the pseudo vein, the pseudo vein cannot be felt.**

- ~~(c) generates a force that opposes downward motion of the pseudo vein; and~~
- ~~(d) the palpation module controllably obscures the pseudo vein under the pseudo skin such that the pseudo vein can be felt, or not felt, as desired.~~

**62.** (New) The apparatus of claim 61 wherein **the palpation module controllably obscures the pseudo vein under the pseudo skin such that the pseudo vein can be felt, or not felt, as desired** when the user applies a sufficient amount of force to the pseudo vein, ~~the pseudo vein cannot be felt.~~

**63. – 64.** (Canceled)

**65.** (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 61 wherein the ~~force generated by the~~ **palpation module generates a force that opposes downward motion of the pseudo vein, which** is experienced by the user as a substantially constant force opposing downward movement of the pseudo vein.

**66.** (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 65[[]] wherein, **although constant during application,** the force generated by the palpation module is adjustable, ~~but is~~

~~substantially constant during application to oppose downward movement of the pseudo vein.~~

**67.** (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 65~~[[1]]~~ wherein the force is a magnetic force.

**68.** (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 67 wherein the magnetic force is generated by an interaction of a magnetic field that is generated by an energized coil with a magnetic field that is generated by a permanent magnet.

**69.** (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 67 wherein a simulated stiffness of the pseudo vein is varied by changing a magnitude of the magnetic force.

**70.** (Canceled)

**71.** (New) The apparatus of claim 60 wherein a magnitude of the magnetic force is substantially constant during application thereof.

**72.** (New) The apparatus of claim 71 wherein, although constant during application, the magnitude of the magnetic force can be varied.